

CHAMBER CHAT

May 2024

What I'm Thinking About

By Andy Mayer President/CEO

1. The end of the Tulip Festival brings back a sense of normalcy to the Chamber office/Visitors' Center. Instead of hundreds of visitors on a sunny day, we're back to a steady stream, some still hoping to see tulips. We also have people coming in that are thinking about moving to the area and residents looking for trusted services. You should have your cards or brochures on display so that they can consider you. Our website also has constant traffic of visitors and residents searching for what you provide. Please contact Chamber staff to help you maximize your exposure through both marketing opportunities.

2. I was down in Olympia last week for a strategic planning session of the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives board, of which I am the Vice-Chair. We discussed how to attract new members to our association and to provide ongoing value to them. The conversation was valuable because of the similarity to the goals we have for our Chamber. It also highlighted the importance of peer-to-peer interaction, which is the key to many of our Chamber programs.

3. My visit to Olympia was seen as a big deal by my wife's 4th grade class at Mount Vernon's Washington Elementary School. They have been studying our state, including Olympia as the capitol city. They see it as a far-off destination and asked whether I could bring back souvenirs. It reminded us that their world view is quite small. It also points out how valuable school is in that it can ignite students' desire to learn and understand that there is a big world out there. P.S.—I couldn't find any souvenirs unfortunately. But I brought back snacks. For hungry 4th graders that's probably as good.

4. Let's shift our focus to our fair City. Mayor Donovan will speak on the "State of the City" at the Chamber Luncheon on May 22. You will want to hear the plans for his administration, as well as immediate accomplishments. I would expect an opportunity to interact with Mayor Donovan based on his desire to create progress for residents and for business.



GOLD



SILVER



Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547
mountvernonchamber.com

Industry Tour at Janicki Industries

Experience Work Project (EWP), a Chamber Foundation program focused on workforce development continues to offer valuable on-the-job learning opportunities to qualifying Skagit Valley College students.

In partnership with the Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit Valley College; last April EWP facilitated an industry tour for Welding and Manufacturing students at Janicki Industries. Guided by EHS Site Manager Nick Lavacca and Training Coordinator Brittany Gladsjo, students visited the Hamilton site which hosts two large-capacity 5-axis CNC mills.

Janicki designs and builds tools, parts, prototypes, and assemblies for a wide variety of industries. They specialize in composite and metal fabrication for large-scale, complex projects. Their markets include aerospace, defense, energy, marine, space, architecture, ground transportation and urban air mobility.

On-the-job learning opportunities help prepare students for future employment while supporting our community workforce needs. Qualifying students are welcome to attend industry tours, shadow a professional in their field or complete a 40-hour internship with a local employer.

The Chamber Foundation's workforce development is funded by the Opportunity Grant Program/Northwest Workforce Council and Skagit Valley College. For more information and partnership opportunities, please contact Business Development and Foundation Director Silvia Reed (360) 395- 2944 / Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com.



EWP Industry Tour at Janicki for Skagit Valley College students



BE ONE OF THE FIRST ONES

**TO INTRODUCE YOUR BUSINESS
TO NEW CHAMBER MEMBERS**

By providing your company swag or special offer to be included in every welcome bag

CONTACT:

Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com
Mount Vernon
Chamber of Commerce
(360) 428-8547



Welcome New Members

BNI

Debbie Ruiz
1-209-810-0071
www.bninw.com
1105 McLean Rd
Mount Vernon

We are the world's leading business referral organization supporting businesses in Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, King and Pierce counties.

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Sharon Morris
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www.rahnorthwest.com
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Right at Home is a leader of the in-home care industry. Our trained caregivers provide top quality in-home care for seniors and disabled adults needing & wanting to maintain their independence.



Skagit Speedway

Jon Hager
(360) 724-3567
www.skagitspeedway.com
4796 Old Hwy 99 N
Burlington

Skagit Speedway is an affordable and safe entertainment facility that your whole family can enjoy!



Tacos La Oriental

Paola Sandre
(360) 420-4293
www.facebook.com/TacosLaOriental
2112 Riverside Dr.
Mount Vernon

Traditional Mexican food, showcasing the best of the cuisine from Puebla including tacos, alambres, gringas, etc. Available for community events and event catering (private and corporate).



wafila

Lisanne Bannister
(360) 455-8064
www.wafla.org
975 Carpenter Rd NE Suite 201
Lacey

wafila is a non-profit organization run by farmers whose mission is to make labor stability a reality for employers in the agricultural industry through advocacy, visa services, and H.R. assistance.



Calendar of Events

Ribbon Cutting at La Catrina Tacos Tequila

Wednesday, May 8 at 4 p.m.

517 S 1st St
Mount Vernon

Speaking of Women Coffee Chat Sabores Catering

Wednesday, May 8 at 9 a.m.

810 W Division St
Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Multi-Chamber After Hours at Camp Korey

Thursday, May 9

4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

24880 Brotherhood Road
Mount Vernon

Latino Business Leaders Business Panel

Wednesday, May 15 at 6 pm.

Skagit Valley College
Multi-Purpose Room

[Register here](#)

thrivent

Shawn Steffens, CHFC, RICP
(360) 707-7677



Ribbon Cutting at Big Rock Grocery Bar & Grill

Friday, May 17 at 5 p.m.

14779 Route 9
Mount Vernon

Membership Luncheon State of the City

Wednesday, May 22

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hillcrest Lodge
1717 S 13th St

Mount Vernon

[Register here](#)



Thank You Renewing Members

30+ Years

Pacific Party Canopies, Inc.
Woodcraft Wood Floors, Inc

25+ Years

Wingate by Wyndham

20+ Years

Brown McMillen Real Estate
Peoples Bank @ Haggen

15+ Years

PeaceHealth United General
Medical Center

15+ Years

Skagit Valley Family YMCA
Steam Hosting

10+ Years

HKP Architects
JP Automotive

10+ Years

La Conner RV & Thousand Trails
Shakespeare Northwest Association
Skagit Powder Coating
The Grand Willow Inn Event Venue and B & B

5+ Years

Chinn GYN, LLC
Marathon Petroleum Corporation
Mystical Wares
Sound Cedar Lumber

Less than 5 Years

Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
Potential Finders Network, LLC
RAIN Catalysts
The Skagit Table

Partner Members

Anderson Podiatry, Bank of the Pacific, Best Western PLUS, Skagit Valley Inn, Birch Equipment Co., Budget Towing & Repair, Coastal Farm & Ranch, Chikara PR, LLC, Farmers Insurance Tory Charette Agency, Foothills Toyota, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Hampton Inn & Suites, Infinity Painting & Renovations, Kern Funeral Home, Landed Gentry Homes & Communities, Loving Farms, Max Dale's Steak and Chop House, Mount Vernon School District, North Coast Credit Union, Northwest Escrow, LLC, PogoZone, Port of Skagit, Puget Sound Energy, SERVPRO, Skagit Public Utility District 1, Skagit Valley Casino Resort, Skagit Valley College, Skagit Regional Health, Skagit Speedway, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Testing and Commissioning Services, LLC, The Washington Shakespearean Festival, Walmart, WECU, White Branches, Williams & Nulle, PLLC, CPAs

Board of Directors

Chair - Flora Lucatero

Children of the Valley

Vice Chair - Tony White

Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Past Chair - Brian Ivie

Skagit Regional Health

Treasurer - Tammy Reim-Ledbetter

Global Credit Union

Member at-large - Diane Fox

All About Hearing

Tony Cook

Cook CPAs and Consultants, PLLC

Viry Delgado

COA Mexican Eatery

Matt Gill

Marathon Petroleum Corporation

Katie Hayton

La Conner Inn

Elizabeth Jennings

Community Action of Skagit County

Crystal King

NW Technology

Robert Knoll

Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Miller

Tulip Valley Farms

Julia Phillip

Julia Phillip Realty

Stacie J. Pratschner

City of Mount Vernon

Dr. Amanda Rentschler

Roosevelt Dental Center

Jon Ronngren

Mount Vernon School District

Dr. Chris Villa

Skagit Valley College

STAFF

Andy Mayer President/CEO

Silvia Reed Business Development and
Foundation Director

Jeremy Kindlund Operations Director

Bob Johnson & Julie Newkirk

Visitor Information Services

Member Announcements

Skagit Pediatrics joins Skagit Regional Health

Skagit Regional Health is pleased to welcome the providers and staff of Skagit Pediatrics, who joined the organization on April 29, 2024. Providers will remain in their current clinic location at 2101 Little Mountain Lane in Mount Vernon. The site is now called Skagit Regional Health – Little Mountain Pediatrics.

City of Mount Vernon Hires New Police Chief

Mayor Donovan announced today that Selah Police Chief Daniel Christman has been named the next Chief of Police for the City of Mount Vernon. Christman began his police career as a City of Bothel Police officer in 1997. His path has been marked by continued promotions with increasing levels of responsibility, culminating in his 2019 advancement to Police Chief for the City of Selah.

For more member announcements, visit
mountvernonchamber.com/member-announcements

Send your announcements to
Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com

Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Lineup

Dust off your lawn chairs, put on your dancing shoes and come to Historic Downtown Mount Vernon for some memorable summer evenings! The Riverwalk Summer Concert Series is free thanks to community sponsors. From foot-tapping blues, to old-time rock and roll music, the Riverwalk Concerts are a great way to wind down your week or jump-start a fun-filled weekend. Bring your lawn chairs, a blanket, a picnic, and the whole family. For information on sponsoring the series contact Jeremy Kindlund, Operations Director at (360) 428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com. See the sponsorship details in this newsletter.

2024 Lineup

July 11: Mama Dirty Skirt Band

July 18: The Hip

July 25: The Walrus

August 1: Eden

August 8: The Naughty Blokes

August 15: Pension King and the Dependents

August 22: Chris Eger and the Powerhouse Horns

August 29: Billy Appleton Band



April in Pictures



**Skagit Chili & Chowder Cook-Off
Best of Show KAPS/KBRC**



**Latino Business Leaders
Spring Social**



**Master Warehouse Ribbon
Cutting**



**Multi-Chamber After Hours at
Celtic Arts Foundation**



Speaking of Women Coffee Chat



**Skagit Chamber Alliance
Legislative Wrap-Up**

Ambassadors

- Chair - Betsy Anorbe**
Betsy Anorbe Real Estate
- Silvia Alvarez**
Triumph Teen Life Center
- Emmy Bateman**
Lincoln Theatre
- Marla Chapa**
Skagit Social
- Clarissa De Vries**
CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC
- Morgan Elton**
Country Financial - The Elton Group
- Joley Garner**
WAFD Insurance Group, Inc.
- Devin González**
Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Jaime Huss**
Washington Federal
- Susana Ipanaque**
La Peruanita LLC – Peruvian Street Food
- Crystal King**
NW Technology
- Blake Rawlins**
Guardian Northwest Title & Escrow
- Tammy Reim-Ledbetter**
Global Credit Union
- Cole Smidt**
Skagit Wedding Films
- Chris Van De Grift**
ReLuTy Real Estate

BRONZE LEGACY



**Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce Presents
RIVERWALK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
July 11-August 29, 2024
Thursdays, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**



The Mount Vernon Riverwalk Concert Series consists of eight weekly concerts on the Mount Vernon Riverwalk Plaza. The concerts feature an eclectic lineup of outstanding bands from the area.

The concerts offer a free, family-friendly, fun atmosphere to encourage visitors and entertain residents. The venue is perfectly situated by the river and adjacent to downtown retail and restaurants. Based on last year's attendance, we expect to welcome 5,000+ people into the downtown core during the entire series.

2024 Lineup - July 11: Mama Dirty Skirt Band, July 18: The Hip, July 25: The Walrus, August 1: Eden, August 8: The Naughty Blokes, August 15: Pension King and the Dependents, August 22: Chris Eger and the Powerhouse Horns, August 29: Billy Appleton Band

The series will be heavily promoted through diverse media, including social media, radio, print, press releases, chamber and city websites, member communications, and more. As a sponsor, you can expect to benefit from unprecedented brand exposure and stand above the competition through association with a much-loved, community-oriented event series.

Please join and support us in offering another wonderful community experience.

For more information on sponsorships, please contact Jeremy Kindlund at the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, 360-428-8547 or Jeremy@MountVernonChamber.com.

2024 Riverwalk Summer Concert Series Sponsorship Opportunities

Presenting Sponsor: \$5,000 - taken

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at every concert

Magnified and well-positioned company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

- Mention in all press releases

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at all series concerts

Royal Sponsor: \$2,500 - limited

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at three concerts

Company logo on promotional poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ad

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

- Mention in all press releases

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at three concerts

Major Sponsor: \$1,250

Opportunity to speak or be recognized at one concert

Company logo on poster

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- Logo on Skagit Valley Herald display ads

- Branded advertising on MountVernonChamber.com and VisitMountVernon.com

- Social Media Promotion on Chamber channels

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Display table at one concert

Supporting Sponsor: \$550

Company logo displayed on promotional poster

Company Banner displayed on Riverwalk throughout series

Company name on advertising, marketing materials, and social media including:

- MV Chamber website & Visitmountvernon.com

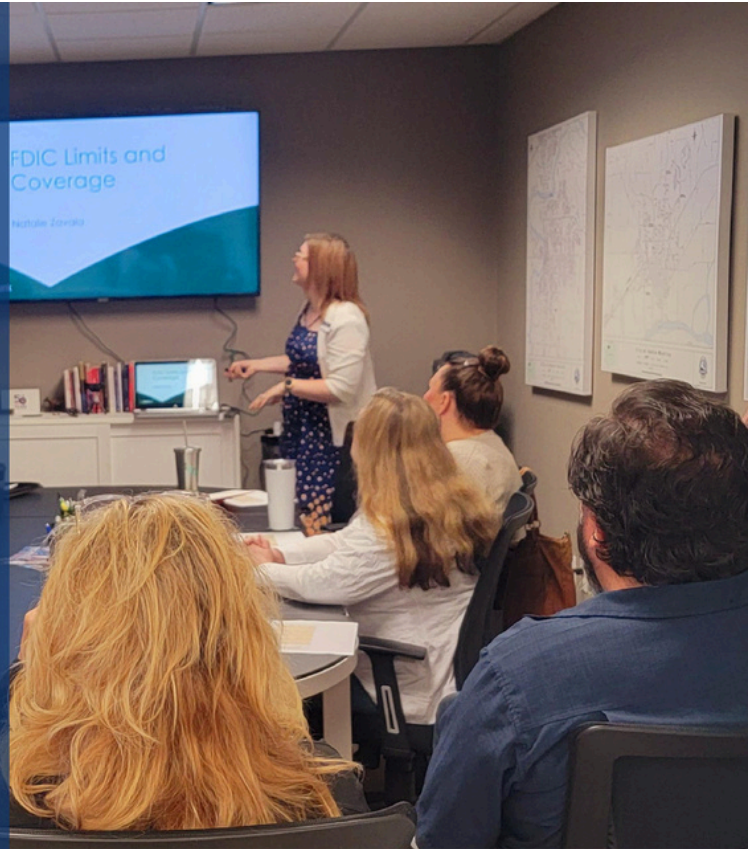
- Chamber Facebook



MOUNT VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HAVE YOU
CONSIDERED?

JOINING
CHAMBER
CONNECTIONS



Benefits

- ✓ Build strong business relationships
- ✓ Share best business practices
- ✓ Generate referrals

Meeting Options

- ✓ 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 9:00 AM
- ✓ 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 9:00 AM
Accepting new group members
- ✓ 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 5:00 PM
Accepting new group members

For information

- 👤 Silvia Reed
- ☎ 360-395-2944 | 360-305-0895
- 🏠 Silvia@MountVernonChamber.com


www.MountVernonChamber.com




Fiber Internet for Condos & Apartments

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